



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

| APPLICATION NO.         | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/756,427              | 01/08/2001  | Koichi Hayakawa      | 112857-247          | 5517             |
| 29175                   | 7590        | 01/13/2006           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC |             |                      | SMITH, TRACI L      |                  |
| P. O. BOX 1135          |             |                      | ART UNIT            | PAPER NUMBER     |
| CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135  |             |                      | 3629                |                  |

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                            |                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No.            | Applicant(s)     |
|                              | 09/756,427                 | HAYAKAWA, KOICHI |
|                              | Examiner<br>Traci L. Smith | Art Unit<br>3629 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A. SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2005.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                  2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is in response to papers filed on November 2, 2005.
2. No claims have been amended.
3. Claims 1-25 are pending.
4. Claims 1-25 are rejected.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,321,983 Katayanagi et al. Method for managing Life Cycles and System for the same. Hereinafter referred to as Katayanagi.

7. As to claims 1, 14-16, and 24-25 Katayanagi teaches a system method and apparatus for reading and writing product history information; specifically repair information. A storage means for the product information and a means for updating product information(C. 3 l. 43-47, 50-51 and C. 4 l. 23-28).

8. As to claims 2-3 and 17-18 Katayanagi teaches a processing information over a network(C.4 l. 6-8)

9. As to claim 4 Katayanagi teaches product history storage read from the system.(C. 7 l. 34-37).
10. As to claims 5 and 19 Katayanagi teaches a reading a product ID number and storing information with product ID number.(C. 7 l. 50-55).
11. As to claim 6 Katayanagi teaches reading product history information based on ID number(C. 5 l. 22-25).
12. As to claims 7-8 and 20 Katayanagi teaches reading/writing and displaying product history information(c. 12 l. 52-54& l. 59-63).
13. As to claims 9 and 21 Katayanagi teaches acquiring product information once a communication connection has been established.(C. 12 l. 31-36).
14. As to claims 10-11 Katayanagi teaches writing information for a product "Life Cycle" which implies maintaining all events that have occurred concerning that product(C. 10 l. 10-15).
15. As to claims 12 and 22 Katayanagi teaches purchase information with retailer registration code (C.4 l. 46-47) and retailer address(C. 9 l. 45-49).
16. As to claims 13 and 23 Katayanagi teaches several types of repair information(C. 8 l. 16-18).

***Response to Arguments***

17. Applicant's arguments filed November 2, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

18. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., guarantee card component) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

19. Applicant fails to claim the limitations in which they are arguing. Applicant argues that the prior art teaches the use of external databases. However, applicants claims to not preclude the use of external databases. The claim identifies certain information stored in device but also control information stored in a "control information Identification/storage means." This can be interpreted to be information stored on a network storage device. Which applicant points out on page 2 of their arguments that Katayanagi reads "certain information from the device" and gains access to additional information from a networked database.

### ***Conclusion***

20. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

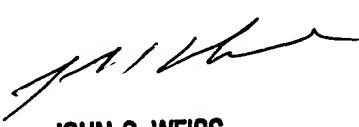
shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Traci L. Smith whose telephone number is 572-272-6809. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:00 am-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 571-272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TLS

  
JOHN G. WEISS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600